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Letter dated 30 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, I have the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, held in New York on 25 September 1996.

I should be grateful if this communiqué and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 10, 11, 19, 24, 27, 33, 34, 35, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 60, 65, 66, 69, 71, 75, 78, 87, 88, 89, 90, 94, 96, 97, 98, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 108, 109, 112, 113, 115, 116, 119, 120, 140, 145, 146, 151, 152, 158 and 159, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Julio LONDOÑO PAREDES
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

[Original: English]

Communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, held in New York on 25 September 1996

1. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Non-Aligned Countries met in New York on 25 September 1996, within the framework of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, for the purpose of coordinating their efforts and establishing guidelines to enable the members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to work as a group on matters of common interest and concern.

2. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation expressed their satisfaction over the preparation and holding of the solemn commemoration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the adoption of the Declaration of the Non-Aligned Movement on the occasion of the thirty-fifth anniversary of its founding, in which it emphasized the validity and relevance of the principles of the Movement including the 10 Bandung principles and recognized solidarity as the cornerstone of action by the non-aligned countries for dealing with both present and future challenges. They urged all countries to continue to exercise this solidarity within the United Nations.

3. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation welcomed the report of the Chairman on the activities of the Movement and expressed the view that those activities contributed appreciably not only to the strengthening of the vital role of the Movement within the international community, but also to the promotion of unity and solidarity among its members. They expressed their firm determination to sustain the progress achieved since the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena, Colombia, from 18 to 20 October 1995.

4. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation stressed the need for the full implementation of the conclusions and decisions of the Eleventh Summit and expressed their determination to continue to carry out and support the directives and mandates on all the issues contained in the final documents of the Summit and the Call from Colombia.

5. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation expressed their satisfaction regarding the message conveyed by the Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the Chairman of the group of seven, in keeping with the mandate contained in the Call from Colombia, adopted by the Heads of State or Government at the Eleventh Summit. They emphasized the importance for the Movement to continue its actions with the group of seven in the areas dealt with in the Chairman's message, including those relating to external debt, development assistance, international trade, investment, illegal drugs, environment and reform of the international monetary and financial system. They

noted with satisfaction the outcome of the meeting between the Chairman of the group of seven and the Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, as reported by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia through her letter dated 20 August 1996.

6. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation welcomed the results of the meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Methodology, held at Cartagena on 15 and 16 May 1996, and the adoption of the Cartagena document on methodology.

7. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation noted with concern the continued imbalances and inequalities in the field of information and communication and the serious implications that the negative situation portends for the non-aligned countries. In that regard they welcomed the outcome of the Fifth Conference of Ministers of Information and Communication of Non-Aligned Countries, held in September 1996 at Abuja, Nigeria. At the Conference, the Ministers agreed, inter alia, on the need for intensive research efforts by non-aligned countries, in the development of communication technology and interregional and intraregional cooperation through mechanisms of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries geared to that end, as a means of redressing the imbalance through an enhanced inflow of information from developing countries.

8. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed their rejection of unilateral measures of coercion as a means of exerting pressure on non-aligned countries and other developing countries. They also rejected the adoption of extraterritorial unilateral measures as contrary to international law and the norms and principles that govern peaceful relations among States and as they threaten the sovereignty of those States.

9. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation also expressed the urgent need for the international community to call upon certain developed countries immediately to eliminate laws and regulations with adverse extra-territorial impacts and other forms of coercive economic measures against developing countries. They emphasized that such actions not only undermined the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, such as the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs, but also severely menaced freedom of trade and investments, which are also spelled out in many international legal instruments, including the principles establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO).

10. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed that the General Assembly, owing to its universal character and in accordance with the functions and powers granted to it by the Charter, is the highest deliberative and decision-making organ within the United Nations system. They emphasized that the strengthening of the role and function of the General Assembly is a basic premise of the current process of restructuring and revitalization. In this connection, they took note of the recommendation of the High-Level Open-ended Working Group on the Strengthening of the United Nations System on the need to continue its work in 1997, and reaffirmed their will to participate actively in the work of the Working Group, in accordance with the

mandate given to that Working Group by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/252 of 14 September 1995.

11. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation renewed their support for the proposal presented by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on 13 February 1995 to the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council. They also expressed their support for the document entitled "Question of the veto", presented by the Movement to the Working Group.*

12. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation took note of the report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council, presented to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session. They noted that the deliberations in the Open-ended Working Group revealed a convergence of views on a number of issues, but important differences still existed on many others. They reaffirmed that members of the Movement would continue to participate actively in the deliberations of the Open-ended Working Group based on the mandate given by the Cartagena Summit in October 1995.

13. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation recalled that the Movement had participated actively in the discussion on the issues addressed by the Secretary-General in An Agenda for Peace and its Supplement as well as in the work that has been carried out by the sub-groups of the Open-ended Working Group on An Agenda for Peace. They noted the progress achieved by the sub-groups on coordination and United Nations-imposed sanctions; in that regard, they stressed that sanctions should not affect humanitarian aspects of civilian populations. They also reiterated their commitment to continue searching for agreement on issues of preventive diplomacy and peacemaking and underscored in that regard that preventive diplomacy of the Organization must be based on the use of peaceful diplomatic means and efforts and should be carried out on the basis of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. They further reaffirmed their commitment to continue searching for agreement on the issue of post-conflict peace-building on the basis of the Charter and the principles of the non-aligned movement.

14. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation supported the suggestion of the Secretary-General on the need for the Security Council to establish a mechanism to study, including in the context of the implementation of Article 50 of the Charter, all the aspects related to sanctions and their real impact. They concurred that the application of sanctions in accordance with the Charter has profound consequences, not only for the target countries, but also for the neighbouring States and trading partners. The economic problems encountered by such States in the wake of sanctions imposed on any other State should be addressed promptly through adequate compensation. They pointed out that sanctions should be lifted as soon as their objectives are

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* Malta has a reservation on paragraph 11 regarding the wording "renewed their support for" and "They also expressed their support for".

fulfilled, and any attempts to impose or extend their application for the sake of attaining certain political objectives is to be rejected. Furthermore, they considered that many critical aspects needed clarification before sanctions were imposed. They affirmed that to this end, serious study should be given to ways of minimizing the possible unintended and long-term effects on the target countries and to reduce to a minimum any damage or impact on neighbouring countries or third parties. The study should consider the need for clearly defined objectives, such as a timetable, and humanitarian considerations, such as the effect on the civilian population.

15. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed that the primary responsibility for international peace and security rested with the United Nations. They recognized once again the importance of United Nations peacekeeping operations and reaffirmed their conviction that such operations must be strictly in accordance with the principles and purposes contained in the Charter and guided by the principles adopted at the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (Cairo, 1994). In that regard they encouraged members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to participate actively in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (Committee of 34).

16. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation expressed their concern over the financial situation in which the United Nations currently finds itself and reaffirmed that the primary cause of those difficulties was the failure on the part of certain developed countries to discharge fully and on time their obligation to pay their assessed contribution to the regular budget and peacekeeping operations. They exhorted those Member States to pay their arrears, as well as current dues, in full, on time and without conditions, as proof of their political will to honour their obligations under the Charter - obligations which apply to all Members.

17. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation took note of the decision of the High-Level Open-ended Working Group on the Financial Situation of the United Nations to continue its efforts to seek to improve the financial situation of the Organization in the coming year, and expressed the hope that its deliberations would enable the General Assembly to take immediate and urgent action to make the United Nations solvent by ensuring that Member States in arrears pay their dues, and to take other appropriate measures by consensus to place the Organization on a sound financial basis.

18. In that regard, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reiterated that the principle of the capacity to pay must remain the fundamental criterion underlying any review of the methodology for apportionment of the expenses of the Organization. They also stressed that any review of the methodology should be based on consensus and consultation and not on the basis of unilateral measures.

19. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation also reaffirmed that the principles contained in the special scale of assessments established in General Assembly resolution 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 for the apportionment of the costs of peacekeeping operations must be adopted on a permanent basis. In that regard, they stressed that the scale for the financing

of those operations must clearly reflect the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council and the economic situations faced by other countries or groups of countries, particularly developing countries.

20. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation stressed the need to continue to provide the United Nations with adequate resources to cover all programmes and activities mandated by the Member States without discrimination, and, while welcoming the effort at improving efficiency and cost-effectiveness, they also emphasized that this should not be at the expense of curtailment or postponement of mandated programmes and activities, especially activities for promoting development.

21. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation acknowledged with appreciation the efforts of the Secretary-General and the Secretariat aimed at promoting the role of the Organization in all fields in spite of the deep financial constraints. In that regard, they expressed their concern for the decrease in the resources devoted to that purpose. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reiterated their support for the international civil service and the need to improve the conditions of service so that the United Nations can attract and maintain the best staff at the service of the whole international community with the widest possible geographical representation and gender equality.

22. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reiterated the continued validity of the fundamental right of all peoples to self-determination, the exercise of which, in the case of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation, is essential to ensure the eradication of all those situations and to guarantee universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. They strongly condemned the ongoing brutal suppression of the legitimate aspirations for self-determination of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation in various regions of the world.

23. Considering the fact that the goals of decolonization are yet to be fully achieved, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed the call for the international community to defend and protect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in their progress towards self-determination consistent with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and other relevant resolutions, in particular Assembly resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsing the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism by the year 2000. In that regard, the Ministers called upon the administering Powers of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take appropriate action to promote the political, constitutional, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories concerned to enhance and facilitate their evolution towards self-determination in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. They further called for the effective coordination between United Nations agencies and the administering Powers in facilitating development assistance to the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and taking practical steps towards the implementation of the Plan of Action in order to attain the goal of ending colonialism by the end of the century.

24. In the context of the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV), the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reiterated that any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

25. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed the importance of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral negotiating body in disarmament.

26. In the post-cold-war era there is no justification whatsoever, if there was ever any, to maintain nuclear arsenals, and much less to add new ones as a continuation of the arms race. The time has come for all stockpiles of those deadly weapons of mass destruction to be destroyed once and for all. The non-proliferation regime will not be successful without a clear perspective on nuclear disarmament. In that regard they stressed once again the need for the Conference on Disarmament to establish, on a priority basis, an ad hoc committee to commence negotiations on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework.

27. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation noted the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, as contained in document A/50/1027, by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996.

28. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Non-Aligned Countries once again urged the nuclear-weapon States to conclude at an early date an international instrument that would offer unconditional and legally binding assurances to all non-nuclear-weapons States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. They emphasized that such an international instrument would constitute a provisional measure, pending the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

29. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation stressed the importance of the advisory opinion of 8 July 1996 of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons. They considered the advisory opinion an important step underlining the status of international law concerning the illegality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons. They welcomed the Court's unanimous decision to the effect that there existed an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. They emphasized the importance of the early commencement of serious negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament as called for by the Court.

30. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation supported the holding of the fourth special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament with the objective of setting the future course of action in the field of disarmament and related security matters and, in this context, emphasized the importance of multilateralism in the process of disarmament, bearing in mind the historical significance of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to

disarmament, and principles, guidelines and priorities envisaged therein, as well as the need to preserve and build upon the achievements of the first special session devoted to disarmament. In that connection, they instructed the Coordination Bureau to entrust the Working Group on Disarmament with the preparation of actions with a view to the holding of the fourth special session at an appropriate time before the turn of the century and the related coordination during the preparatory process.

31. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation welcomed the adoption by the Disarmament Commission, by consensus, at its 1996 substantive session, of the document entitled "Guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991".

32. They expressed their great concern at the acts of terrorism and subversion, which, under various pretexts and disguises, result in the most flagrant violation of human rights and seek to destabilize the prevailing constitutional order and political unity of sovereign States.

33. They welcomed with satisfaction the adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (resolution 49/60 of 9 December 1994) and urged that it be implemented. They reiterated their condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, as they have adverse consequences, inter alia, on the economy and social development of States. They declared that terrorism affects also the stability of nations and the very basis of societies, especially pluralistic societies. They also called for the urgent conclusion and the effective implementation of a comprehensive international convention for combating terrorism.

34. They further urged all States to cooperate to enhance international cooperation in the fight against terrorism, wherever by whomever against whomever it occurs at the national, regional and international levels, and to observe and implement the relevant international and bilateral instruments, taking into account the report of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Cairo in 1995.

35. They affirmed that criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for whatever purpose were in any circumstance unjustifiable, whatever the considerations or factors that may be invoked to justify them.

36. They reaffirmed that all States were under the obligation, in accordance with the purposes and principles and other provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant international instruments, codes of conduct and other rules of international law, to refrain from organizing, assisting or participating in terrorist acts in the territories of other States or acquiescing in or encouraging activities within the territories directed towards the commission of such acts, including allowing the use of national territories and territories under their jurisdiction for planning and training for that purpose. They solemnly reaffirmed their unequivocal condemnation of any political, diplomatic, moral or material support to terrorism.

37. They reaffirmed the Movement's principled position under international law on the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for national liberation and self-determination which did not constitute terrorism.

38. They called once again for the endorsement in principle of the call for the definition of terrorism to differentiate it from the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation.

39. They stressed the need to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations regardless of race, religion or nationality of the victims or perpetrators of terrorism.

40. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation welcomed the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the establishment of the International Seabed Authority in Jamaica. They urged countries that had not yet done so, to ratify the Convention and its implementing agreements. They reaffirmed that the Convention and the agreements represented significant achievements of the international community through multilateral efforts in creating a legal order for the seas and the oceans that will, inter alia, facilitate international communications, promote the peaceful uses of the seas and oceans, the equitable and efficient utilization of their resources, the conservation of their living resources and the protection and preservation of the marine environment.

41. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed the position on Palestine and the Middle east adopted by the Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at the Cartagena Summit. They expressed their concern over the deterioration of the situation in the region and in particular the difficulties being experienced in the peace process as a result of Israeli refusal to implement the agreements reached. They stated their unconditional support for the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people to secure their inalienable rights to self-determination and independence and reiterated their demand for the full withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Palestinian and other Arab lands, including Jerusalem, southern Lebanon, Western Bekaa and the Syrian Golan. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation expressed their concern at the recent Israeli action of opening a tunnel in the vicinity of Al-Haram Al-Sharif in occupied East Jerusalem. They also called for the immediate reversal of this action, which endangered the foundations of the Holy Sites existing above the tunnel.

42. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reconfirmed their support for the peace process on the basis and terms of reference of the Madrid Peace Conference to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on international legitimacy, Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978) and the principle of land for peace, which ensure the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan to the 4 June 1967 line, and they called upon Israel to resume peace negotiations with Syria from the point at which they were stopped and to respect the obligations and guarantees reached at the previous negotiations.

43. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed the views expressed by the Heads of State or Government at the Eleventh Summit of the Movement regarding international drug control. They once again strongly condemned the demand for and illegal trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances, including their production, distribution and sale. They also expressed their concern over the increasing tendency of certain States to resort to one-sided qualifications of the policies of other States, thus serving interests of their own. They rejected the continued use of unilateral mechanisms of evaluation, qualification and certification, as they are inconsistent with the principles of the sovereign equality of States and of non-intervention and undermine multilateral instruments and mechanisms established for this purpose.

44. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reiterated their support for the convening, in 1998, of a special session of the General Assembly dedicated to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and drug-related offences, from which new strategies should arise to tackle in an integral manner the problem of illegal drugs, and concrete mechanisms should be formulated for international cooperation for the fight against that phenomenon.

45. Reaffirming the Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-first session, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of delegation welcomed the establishment of an intergovernmental group of experts charged with elaborating a strategy for the application and promotion of the right to development, considered in its integral and multidimensional aspects - a strategy that takes into account the conclusions of the Working Group on the Right to Development established by the Commission on Human Rights and the conclusions of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna in 1993, the International Conference on Population and Development, held at Cairo in 1994, the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen in 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing in 1995, and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Istanbul in 1996. They were confident that the new group of experts would receive from the Secretariat all the necessary assistance for performing its mandate.

46. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation took note of the recent resumption of the work of the Third Committee working group and urged it to finalize in the earliest time possible its second mandate, namely the formulation of recommendations to the General Assembly for ongoing adaptation of the machinery of the United Nations in the sphere of human rights in full compliance with the provisions of part II, paragraph 17, of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. They also expressed their intention to instruct their delegates to carry through the necessary negotiations, based on the proposals stated by the Movement in a document of 20 November 1995 - proposals which were submitted to the working group at its session of 29 November 1995.

47. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation also called for the streamlining and rationalization of the human rights machinery, including the reporting obligations under the various human rights instruments and

complaints procedures which have proliferated and led to unnecessary duplication.

48. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation stated that, while the world economy was showing some signs of growth, it had fallen short of expectations, and future prospects remained uncertain. They regretted the continuing and sharp accentuation of inequalities between developing countries and developed countries and the deterioration of the international economic environment in terms of access to markets, as well as the sharp decline in concessional finance for development. They also expressed their concern at the diversion of even scanty concessional resources for development to short-term emergency humanitarian assistance projects and the absence of serious efforts to tackle the issue of access to and transfer of technology on concessional and preferential terms to developing countries.

49. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation welcomed the relatively high growth rates experienced by some developing countries over the past years, which represented a significant contribution to the global economy while also helping to offset the low rates recorded by the developed countries. They also asserted that this achievement should be acknowledged by the international community, ensuring an effective role for developing countries in policy formulation and decision-making at the global level.

50. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reiterated their profound concern that the developing countries were shouldering a disproportionate share of the burden of adjustment in face of the rapid changes and transformations in the global economy. They called upon the developed countries to make every effort to coordinate their macroeconomic policies, including through multilateral institutions in which developing countries are represented, so as to stimulate the world economy through increased demand, stabilized markets and further liberalized trade, and thereby provide a conducive international economic environment for development.

51. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation expressed their satisfaction with the results achieved at the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as well as with the position stated by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at the session. In the contemporary context, UNCTAD has a consensus-building role for the purposes of inserting the development dimension into the consideration of all trade-related issues. They reaffirmed the need to consolidate UNCTAD as the focal point of the United Nations to deal with topics related to trade and development and to offer support to developing countries with a view to facilitating their participation in the world economy on an equitable basis.

52. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation emphasized the importance for the analytical work and policy research conducted by UNCTAD of facilitating an integrated consideration of issues related to trade, investment, technology, services and development. They also underlined the role of UNCTAD as a forum for discussions aimed at considering strategies and development policies, promoting a constructive dialogue among countries and responding to the changing needs of developing countries. From its unique development perspective, UNCTAD should also be encouraged to contribute to the preparation

of the agenda for future multilateral negotiations. The Ministers welcomed the mandate given to UNCTAD to identify and analyse implications for development of issues relevant to a possible multilateral framework on investment, taking into account the interests of developing countries.

53. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation emphasized the importance and greater relevance of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and underscored its role as a specialized agency with a central coordination task within the United Nations system in the field of industrial development. They underlined the reform process undertaken by UNIDO to enhance its effectiveness as a forum for supporting and promoting industrial development, as well as for providing specialized technical cooperation services. They affirmed their commitment to support and strengthen UNIDO so as to enable it to exercise fully its development mandate.

54. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation underlined the position expressed by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries during the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), especially on matters related to international cooperation, the right to adequate housing and the role of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements. They pointed out that the results attained at the Conference took into account the interests of the developing countries and expressed their will to work constructively and promote a firm political commitment on the part of the international community to the full implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

55. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation called for urgent and immediate generation of political will in the international community to follow up and implement the recommendations of recent United Nations conferences, in particular commitments to new and additional financing for development and creation of a favourable international economic environment, inter alia, through transfer of technology and enhanced trade access of products from developing countries. They stressed that only a change in attitude towards the re-establishment of international cooperation in areas truly crucial for the economic growth of developing countries would lend legitimacy to the implementation and follow-up of the conferences. They underscored the fundamental role of the United Nations General Assembly as the supreme intergovernmental organ for policy formulation and evaluation in development areas and as having the high responsibility of ensuring the implementation of the recommendations of the conferences. A strong political commitment by the international community was also needed to implement a strengthened international cooperation for development.

56. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed that in the era of globalization and interdependence there could be no alternative other than to revitalize the dialogue between the developed and developing countries to strengthen global cooperation for development based on mutual benefit and shared responsibilities. They further reaffirmed that the international community must accept the imperative need for global partnership if peace and prosperity were to be effectively advanced.

57. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation underlined that the renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation

for development through partnership, could serve as an essential mechanism to strengthen further the efforts of the international community in implementing all major United Nations consensus agreements on development and the agreed commitments and outcomes of the major United Nations conferences, as well as in implementing relevant major United Nations resolutions. The dialogue could also serve as a mechanism for discussing emerging and urgent issues relevant to the strengthening of global partnership for development.

58. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed that an Agenda for Development must respond to the needs of the developing countries. They also reaffirmed that an Agenda for Development should provide a unique opportunity for placing development at the forefront of international agenda and for embarking on a process of constructive dialogue. They pointed out that the subsequent implementation of an Agenda for Development should be reflected in a reduction of the existing fundamental imbalances and in the solution of problems in critical areas of the international economy. In that regard, they noted the status of negotiations of the Agenda and supported General Assembly decision 50/490 of 16 September 1996 that the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on an Agenda for Development, should continue its work at the fifty-first session of the Assembly, with a view to concluding its work on the elaboration of the Agenda as soon as possible. The adoption of the Agenda would greatly help the United Nations in resuming its rightful role as enshrined in the Charter. Therefore they emphasized that an Agenda for Development must lead to a strengthening of the role of the United Nations in development and intensify the relationship between the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and other multilateral institutions concerned with development matters.

59. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation emphasized that only an integral strategy for debt-reduction including all types of indebtedness - multilateral, bilateral and commercial - and covering all developing countries would make it possible to reduce the problem to manageable levels. This objective must be achieved in the short term, with the immediate implementation of reduction mechanisms in order to enable the indebted countries to regain their economic growth rates and to free up the resources they need to attend to their economic and social priorities. It is essential that, for the three types of the debt, reduction cover both the debt service and its volume. They stressed that the solution to the debt problem must go much further than the establishment of transitory relief measures and be based on a genuine joint effort between debtors and creditors without selectivity, taking into account all the dimensions of the problem and ensuring a net transfer of financial resources to indebted countries. They expressed their hope that the annual meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, scheduled for October 1996, would yield positive results and effective formulas for arriving at solutions to the debt problem.

60. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation stated their support for the World Food Summit, convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) at Rome in November 1996 and stressed the importance of the adoption, in close cooperation with the Group of 77, of a common position and coordinated action by the Ministers of Agriculture of the Non-Aligned Countries within the framework of the Summit, in accordance with the

mandate of the Final Document adopted at the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement. To that end, they supported the idea of holding a meeting of Ministers of Food and Agriculture of the Non-Aligned Countries. They expressed their concern over the deterioration of the food and agriculture situation in developing countries, reaffirmed the need to achieve food security and sustainable agricultural policies as fundamental objectives of development and asserted that the right to food was a fundamental human right, the respect and promotion of which constitute a moral imperative for the international community. In that regard, they affirmed the importance of economic and social policies that would promote the full participation and empowerment of people, especially of women. Moreover, they strongly rejected the use of food as an instrument of economic or political pressure.

61. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation underlined the importance of the World Trade Organization (WTO) for the international trading system and stressed the role and contribution that developing countries have already made in the establishment of WTO and in the adoption of the Uruguay Round package. They stressed the necessity that all member States of WTO fully implement the Uruguay Round agreement so that expected trade and welfare gains to developing countries are actually realized. They also noted with concern the persistent call by some countries, in particular developed countries, to enlarge the WTO agenda by including new issues that do not belong to its mandate, as is the case with labour issues, or have not been the subject of preliminary studies that justify their inclusion in the future work of WTO. The Ministers stressed that the International Labour Organization was the appropriate forum to deal with labour issues in accordance with the decisions adopted by the International Labour Conference. They reiterated that the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries should oppose any attempt to include at the inaugural World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference issues that were not trade-related. They underlined that UNCTAD should continue to facilitate the integration of developing countries in the international trading system in a complementary manner with WTO and to promote development through trade and investment.

62. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation underscored that the inaugural World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, which will take place in Singapore in December 1996, should give priority to the analysis and review of the implementation and timely fulfilment of the Uruguay Round agreements, with particular consideration to their impact on the developing countries economies, especially those of the least developed countries. They expressed the need for the Conference to adopt specific measures aimed at mitigating the adverse consequences of those agreements on the developing countries. They also emphasized the importance of ensuring the universality of WTO and, in this context, called for expedition in the accession process of applying developing countries, including those that are not members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. They furthermore underscored that in the review of the application for membership no political consideration should be invoked to impede accession of developing countries. In that context, the Ministers recognized the importance of the inaugural Ministerial Conference and affirmed their commitment to ensure its success.

63. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation observed that while environmental problems of developed countries are associated with

unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, those afflicting developing countries are, to a large extent, the result of poverty and underdevelopment and of their technical and financial limitations. They stated their decision to promote the preparation of the special session of the General Assembly, to be held in 1997 for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of commitments, recommendations and agreements reached at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. They emphasized with grave concern that, while the Conference, Agenda 21 and other international instruments on environmental subjects invoked a new spirit of partnership and cooperation, four years after the Conference the required new and additional financial resources had not been allocated and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies on concessional and preferential terms, scientific and technical cooperation and the appropriate dissemination of information had not materialized.

64. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation took note of the important and positive role played by the Joint Coordinating Committee of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Group of 77 during the past years in advancing the common positions of the developing countries. They agreed that the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries should jointly sponsor draft resolutions to be presented by the Group of 77 at the fifty-first session of the General Assembly on the following agenda items: trade and development, cooperation for industrial development, environment and sustainable development, human settlements, population and development, external debt crisis and development, food and sustainable agricultural development, an Agenda for Development and renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership.

65. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen South-South cooperation, and reiterated their conviction that it constituted an integral and essential part of the efforts of the developing countries to promote economic growth, increase technological capacities and accelerate development. In that regard, new political and economic realities call for a greater partnership and for pursuing new opportunities for strengthening South-South cooperation. They therefore reaffirmed their support for the holding of a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation.

66. While noting that there has been increased interest and willingness to strengthen South-South cooperation, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation asserted that further efforts were needed to ensure that their commitments materialized. They noted with appreciation the steps undertaken by the Government of Indonesia in further implementing the decision adopted at the Eleventh Summit on the establishment of the Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation as a vital and effective means of promoting and accelerating development among developing countries. They reiterated their conviction that South-South cooperation should be promoted through the sharing of development experiences among developing countries.

67. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation underlined the vital role of energy, particularly for rapid economic growth and development of the developing countries, and encouraged the non-aligned countries to enhance

their cooperation in that field through, inter alia, joint investments and projects in the context of South-South cooperation. In that connection, they called upon the developed countries and the multilateral financial institutions to support such activities through the provision of financial, technical and technological resources. Considering the increasing need of the developing countries for energy, they also reiterated that according to international agreements, the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes was the inalienable right of all countries, and as such should be promoted.

68. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the Government of India for the offer to host the next Ministerial Meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at New Delhi in 1997, and, in that regard, committed themselves to actively participate in such an important meeting.

69. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Non-Aligned Countries welcomed the admission of Ukraine as an Observer of the Movement.